THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No Sir,

(b) and (c) At present all edible oils (except coconut oil) are freely importable without any licence. Import of coconut oil and copra are under State Trading Regime. Accordingly it is open to private persons to take a decision to import edible oil keeping in view the domestic market price. Government does not play any direct role in such decisions to import edible oils.

News-item "India loses WTO cases against European Union"

2520. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:
SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India loses WTO case against European Union", which appeared in the 'Indian Express', dated the 6th November, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how would Government defend WTO cases in future;

(c) if so, the detailed study undertaken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (d) India had resorted to World Trade Organization's (WTO) Dispute Settlement Mechanism and challenged the anti-dumping duty imposed by European Communities (EC) on imports of bed linen from India. On 12 March, 2001 the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) adopted the Appellate Body Report and the Penal Report as modified by the Appellate Body, in this dispute. These Reports concluded that the EC's imposition of definitive anti-dumping duties on imports of cotton-type bed linen from India had been inconsistent with the Anti-dumping Agreement. Pursuant to the recommendations of these Reports, the DSB requested the European Communities to bring its measures into conformity with its obligations under the Anti-dumping Agreement. Subsequently EC undertook a review of the anti-dumping measure and re-determined the level of anti-dumping duty. However, the application of the duty was suspended. India strongly disagreed with the re-determination and at its request a Compliance Panel had been constituted

to examine the consistency of measures taken by EC in compliance with the decision of the DSB in the original bed linen dispute with EC. The Compliance Panel has concluded that EC has implemented the recommendations of the DSB in the original bed linen dispute. The Compliance Panel Report would be adopted by the DSB unless a party to the dispute decides to appeal the report or the DSB decides by consensus not to adopt the Report.The Government is considering the future course of action in this dispute in accordance with the rules of the WTO.

In respect of the disputes in which the DSB has adopted the panel and Appellate Body reports, India has won 5 cases and also lost 5 eases. In one case India requested termination of the panel proceedings in light of the removal by the United States of the disputed safeguard measure. Government has been pursuing WTO cases in coordination with concerned administrative Ministries, Department of Legal Affairs and the legal experts engaged for the disputes. For each dispute a lawyer is appointed with the prior approval of Department of Legal Affairs. Where necessary an experienced foreign lawyer is also appointed with the approval of the Department of Legal Affairs.

Decrease in FDI

2521. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the country during the last three years, year-wise and sector-wise;

(b) whether there is perceptible decrease in FDI;

(c) whether Government have instituted any inquiry with regard to this matter;

(d) if so, the results thereof; and

(e) the steps being contemplated to attract FDI in different sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) The total FDI inflows into India over the last three years have been Rs. 35772.60 crore. A Statement showing the year-wise and sector-wise break-up of FDI inflows during the last three years is enclosed as Statement (See below).